

Bennett & Idong Ekandem
MSC Missionaries in Georgia, USA

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It's summer and everyone is off to camp of some kind – soccer camp, dance camp, even forensic camp – you name it. This month even *I* went to camp! The Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) invited me to attend a week-long Bible camp for girls at Camp Pinnacle near Clayton, GA as one of the missionary speakers. What a beautiful setting it was, in the north Georgia mountains! I was kept "on the go" from 7:20 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., nonstop. My purpose was to give a one hour presentation every day about missionaries and to attend most of the other hourly activities. The events were so exciting that I never got tired. I learned just as much about humility and the joy of serving God from the girls as they learned about missions from me.



One of the highlights of my experience was meeting a former missionary to Nigeria for over thirty years. Imagine the irony of learning so many lessons of *my* homeland from an American! She speaks some tribal languages that I know bits and pieces of, but she spoke them all fluently.

It was a great joy to see so many girls in a Christian camp learning all week about the Bible, missions, and how to have a relationship with Christ. These children are part of the next generation who will become wives and mothers, part of the work force, and in whatever way they're called by God to influence those around them. I pray, and ask you to please join me, that this will only be the beginning of great things for them, that they will stay on the right path, grow as Christians, and not fall into any of the traps of the world they will encounter as they enter their teen and young adult years.

This month we had Vacation Bible School at our new mission, Madison Hills, in Marietta, GA. In addition to other VBS activities, a group of ladies from a remarkable ministry called the "Elite Women of Excellence" led by Lisa Smith, taught etiquette to the boys and girls that week, a subject sorely needed by children today.

We will be having camps at Willow Branch in July – two weeks of VBS and two weeks of academic camp. Our academic camp will consist of math, science, and language arts for 1st to 8th grades from Birchwood Baptist Church, TN; Etowah Baptist Church from NC will host the VBS last week of the camp while the middle weeks will be taught by our own volunteers with the help of volunteers from Church of the Apostles.

The ministry of Family Heritage Foundation has been growing at a rapid pace this year. We have had new opportunities, new churches, and organizations to help us, all of which we believe is an indication of God's blessing on our efforts. We have seen our children grow and change as a result of the loving attention and activities they experience here. Our mission is to families, and what better way to reach the entire family than through the children? This is in accord with what Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come unto Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

We appreciate you so much, our supporters in prayer and in finances. Both are equally important, as Idong and I can attest that nothing is accomplished without prayer to our Heavenly Father, and that it takes substantial financial output to carry out all that we do. So we thank you again for your contribution to our ministry. We have many countries of the world represented in our community, and you are a part of carrying out Jesus' command to take the Gospel to all the world.

Note from Idong:

A side of Bennett you've never seen before now: Having some R&R time after our board meeting. Of course, we all got out of his way...

Thanks to Bruce and Susan Coker for hosting us!



God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bennett Ekandem'.

Bennett Ekandem

Please support our ministry!
Make checks to the North American Missions Board, P.O. Box 116543, Atlanta, GA 30368
designated to Bennett Ekandem #8241